Gulf of Mexico Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin

Region: Texas

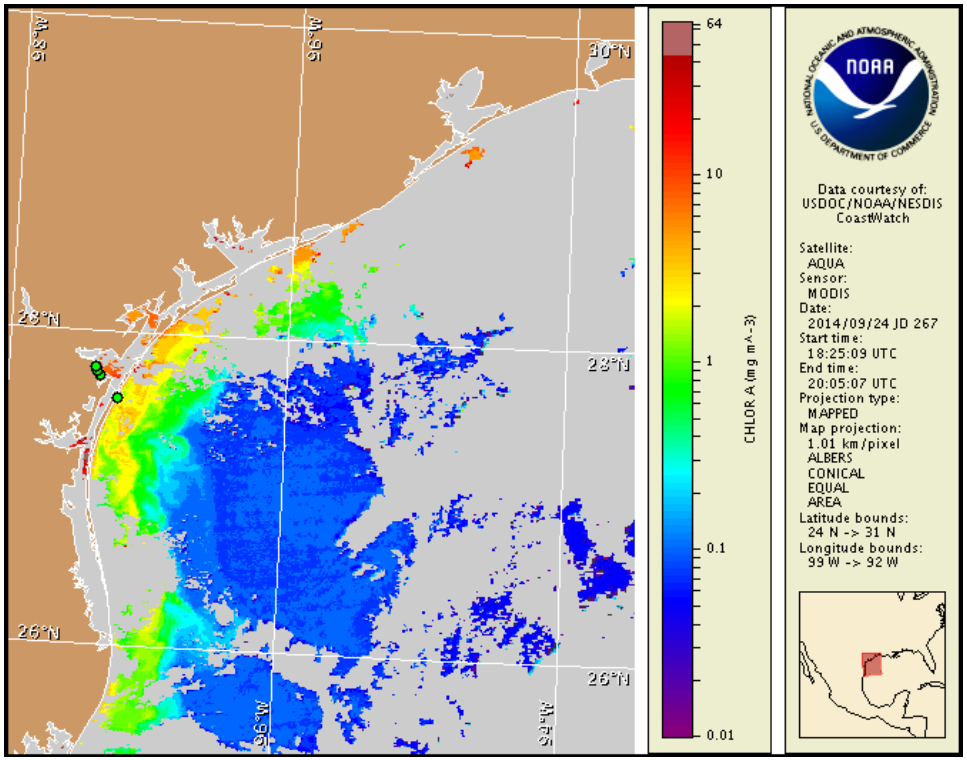
Thursday, 25 September 2014

NOAA National Ocean Service

NOAA Satellite and Information Service

NOAA National Weather Service

Last bulletin: Monday, September 22, 2014



Satellite chlorophyll image with possible *K. brevis* HAB areas shown by red polygon(s), when applicable. Points represent cell concentration sampling data from September 15 to 24: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/habfs_bulletin_guide.pdf

Detailed sample information can be obtained through the Texas Parks and Wildlife Department at:

http://www.tpwd.state.tx.us./landwater/water/environconcerns/hab/redtide/status.phtml

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To see previous bulletins and forecasts for other Harmful Algal Bloom Bulletin regions, visit the NOAA Harmful Algal Bloom Operational Forecast System bulletin archive:

http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/bulletins.html

Conditions Report

Not present to low concentrations of *Karenia brevis* (commonly known as Texas red tide) are present along the coast of Texas. *K. brevis* concentrations are patchy in nature and levels of respiratory irritation will vary locally based upon nearby bloom concentrations, ocean currents, and wind speed and direction. The highest level of potential respiratory irritation forecast for Thursday, September 25 to Monday, September 29 is listed below:

Region: Forecast (9/25-9/28)
Port Aransas/Mustang Island to PINS region: Very Low (Th-M)
All Other Texas Regions: None expected (Th-M)

Check http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/beach_conditions.html for recent, local observations. Health information, from the Texas Department of State Health Services and other agencies, is available at http://tidesandcurrents.noaa.gov/hab/hab_health_info.html. No reports of respiratory irritation or dead fish have been received over the past few days.

Analysis

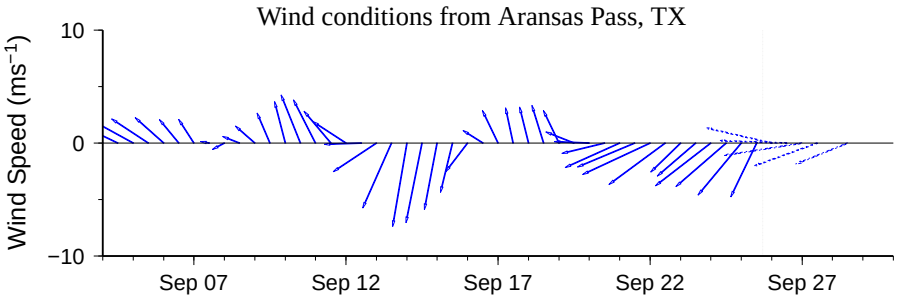
As of today, September 25, Texas bulletins will be issued twice weekly on Mondays and Thursdays due to the presence of Karenia brevis concentrations nearshore.

Samples collected in the Corpus Christi Bay region and alongshore Mustang Island indicate that *K. brevis* concentrations are 'not present' (TPWD; 9/24). Texas A&M University's Imaging FlowCytobot, located on the Port Aransas ship channel, continues to indicate that *Karenia brevis* concentrations range from 'not present' to 'low a' (TAMU; 9/25). Samples of *K. brevis* have not been reported from elsewhere along the Texas coast. No respiratory irritation or fish kills have been reported from alongshore the Texas coast over the last few days (TPWD; 9/22-25). For information on area shellfish restrictions, contact the Texas Department of State Health Services.

Recent MODIS Aqua imagery (9/24, shown left) is mostly obscured by clouds along- and offshore from Sabine Pass to the Rio Grande; however, elevated chlorophyll (1-10 μg/L) is visible, in patches, stretching along- and offshore from Aransas Pass to the Padre Island National Seashore region.

Forecast models based on predicted near-surface currents indicate a potential maximum transport of 130 km south from the Port Aransas region from September 24-28.

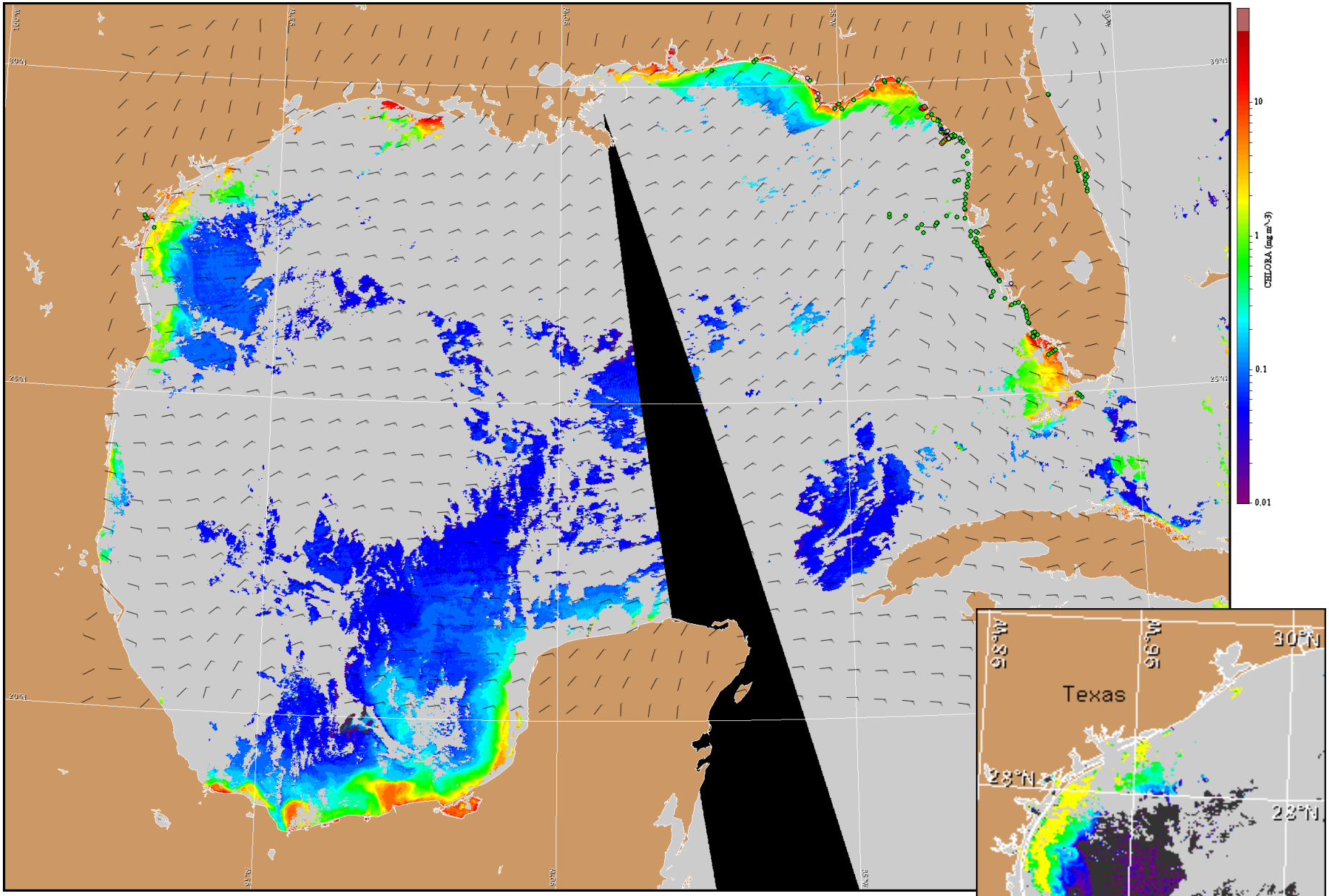
Schneider, Davis, Derner



Wind speed and direction are averaged over 12 hours from buoy measurements. Length of line indicates speed; angle indicates direction. Red indicates that the wind direction favors upwelling near the coast. Values to the left of the dotted vertical line are measured values; values to the right are forecasts. Wind observation and forecast data provided by NOAA's National Weather Service (NWS).

Wind Analysis

Port Aransas: North winds (15kn, 8m/s) today becoming east winds (10-15kn, 5-8m/s) this afternoon through Saturday. Northeast winds (10-15kn) Saturday night through Sunday. East winds (5-10kn 3-5m/s) Sunday night becoming southeast winds after midnight. North winds (5-10kn) Monday.



Satellite chlorophyll image and forecast winds for September 26, 2014 12Z with points representing cell concentration sampling data from September 15 to 24: red (high), orange (medium), yellow (low b), brown (low a), blue (very low b), purple (very low a), pink (present), and green (not present). Cell count data are provided by Texas Parks and Wildlife Department. For a list of sample providers and a key to the cell concentration categories, please see the HAB-OFS bulletin guide:

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Verified and suspected HAB areas shown in red. Other areas of high chlorophyll concentration shown in yellow (see p. 1 analysis for interpretation).